



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

Office of the Regional Administrator

April 5, 2021

Ex. (6), 7(C)

Concerned Citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish
Reserve, Louisiana 70084

Email: citizensofstjohnparish@gmail.com

Dear Ex. (6), 7(C)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has received your letter sent via email dated February 28, 2021. In the letter, you stated that the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) ‘... misused the EPA funds by conducting a project that is completely different—in purpose, scope, and methodology—from the one proposed to the EPA in the agencies’ grant application.’ Your letter also stated: ‘[t]he actual project does not fit within the EPA’s “Improve Air Quality” objective, is not aligned with [Clean Air Act (CAA)] §105 criteria, and has nothing to do with preventing or controlling air pollution.’

The EPA takes allegations of misuse of federal funds seriously. The EPA has completed its review of this matter. The EPA found that the work done is within the scope of work provided by the state and the activities align with the requirements of the CAA §105 criteria. While considerable work was done by Louisiana State University (LSU) New Orleans School of Public Health for the LDH to collect information for the Tumor Registry study, the overall project is not complete and additional work is underway by the LDH in cooperation with the LDEQ. Please review the enclosure for discussion of your concerns with respect to the grant requirements.

The EPA appreciates Ex. (6), 7(C) and your efforts to provide supporting information. Thank you for your continued interest in addressing air quality in the St. John the Baptist Parish area. If you would like to discuss our responses, please contact me at 214-665-2100, or Ms. Gloria Vaughn at 214-665-7535.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Gray", is positioned above the typed name.

David W. Gray
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Mark Cooper, Officer of the Governor (Mark.Cooper@la.gov)
Matthew Block, Office of the Governor (Matthew.Block@la.gov)